

MEDIA INVITATION

Oceanside Kicks-Off Free Summer Meals for All Children

New funding and Task Force help the City to increase participation at existing summer meal sites and launch new ones to feed more low-income children.

The San Diego Hunger Coalition in partnership with the City of Oceanside and Oceanside Unified School District will hold two family-friendly barbecue events to kick-off free summer meals for children in the city. The first event will take place **Thursday, June 22 from 11 am to 1 pm at Balderrama Park (709 San Diego Street, Oceanside, CA 92058)** followed by a second event on **Thursday, June 29 from 11 am to 1 pm at Libby Lake Park (504 Calle Montecito, Oceanside, CA 92057)**. More than 200 families are anticipated to receive free meals at each kick-off event thanks to a sponsorship from Mission Federal Credit Union to feed the parents and adult siblings of the children in attendance. **A brief media conference will take place at the first event on June 22 at and will feature dignitaries and funders (see details below).**

Oceanside is now better able to address child hunger thanks to a grant the San Diego Hunger Coalition wrote with the City of Oceanside resulting in a \$20,000 award from the [National League of Cities, Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs \(CHAMPS\) initiative](#). With the CHAMPS grant funding, the Hunger Coalition and the City of Oceanside will partner with Oceanside Unified School District to feed more children, raise awareness about child hunger and convene the **North County Youth Meals Task Force**, a collaborative of area summer meals sites and sponsors dedicated to increasing participation in the city's existing out-of-school meal programs and launching additional sites.

In San Diego County, 1 in 5 children don't have enough to eat for an active, healthy life. A lack of regular nutritious meals can affect a child's ability to grow and develop causing many to fall behind in school. Oceanside has an overall poverty rate of 14.2% (1 in 7 people living below poverty level), but has many neighborhoods where the rate is higher than 20% (1 in 5 people below poverty).

Families looking for free summer meals can text 'FOOD' (or 'COMIDA') to 877-877 or call 2-1-1 to find a nearby site.

Event Details

Note to Editor

You are invited to send a reporter, photographer or camera crew to this event.

Date: Thursday, June 22

Time: 11:30 am

Address: Balderrama Park (709 San Diego Street, Oceanside, CA 92058)

Media Opportunities

Speakers include:

City of Oceanside Deputy Mayor Chuck Lowery

Oceanside Unified School District Associate Superintendent of Business Services Christopher Wright

San Diego Hunger Coalition Executive Director Anahid Brakke
Oceanside Public Library Downtown Civic Center Branch (new summer meal site) Librarian Marie Town

About the San Diego Hunger Coalition

San Diego Hunger Coalition leads coordinated action to end hunger in San Diego County supported by research, education and advocacy. San Diego Hunger Coalition's vision is that everyone in San Diego County has enough food for an active, healthy life. To learn more, visit the San Diego Hunger Coalition online at www.sdhunger.org, or on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).